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knowledge, and these bibliographies are very important features of the volume. The map is commonplace, and shows topography only in a crude manner.

The writer says that the study of the English language may begin in the higher elementary school of Japan, and is required in every middle school which corresponds to our high school. We may look upon the attention given to the English language in Japanese schools as one of the means by which our relations of friendship and business with that empire will be facilitated.

Le Japon d'aujourd'hui. Par G. Weulersse. 364 pp. Armand Colin, Paris, 1904.

The book will prove welcome as an aid to the study of modern Japan. Its chief topics are the geography of the country, the leading cities (Tokio, Kioto, and Osaka), agriculture, the manufacturing industries, education, and the position of Japanese women.

The farmers of Japan appear to be progressive. M. Weulersse says that, in addition to the variety of native fertilizers, phosphates and other chemical agencies for enriching the soil are coming into use. Twenty-seven per cent. of the area under rice now yields two crops a year. From 1892 to 1896 the extent of the tea plantations diminished, but the improved methods of tillage increased the production 17 per cent.

The Engineer in South Africa. By Stafford Ransome, C.E. 320 pp. Maps and Illustrations. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1903. (Price, \$2.50 net.)

Though this book was written by an engineer, it is not technical, but is adapted to edify and interest all intelligent persons who, for any reason, would like to possess accurate and solid information about South Africa. The chapters on industrial geography, international colonial relations, the harbours of South Africa, interior communications, diamond and gold mining, irrigation and labour problems, are especially valuable in their geographic and economic relations. So full a description of the harbours, with their lamentable limitations and the methods of development and improvement required, does not appear in any of the larger books on South Africa. A full description of Saldanha Bay is given, with a map and pictures. This almost ideal natural harbour on the

Atlantic coast, sixty miles north of Cape Town, is now to be developed. A large part of it is entirely landlocked, it is large enough to contain at one time ten times as many ships as now visit the ports of South Africa, and has "so much depth of water and natural wharfage that, without excavation or dredging, ships drawing 15 and 18 feet can be moored alongside its coast-line." The chapters on the cost of living and the rewards of labour show that, though high wages are paid, expenses are in full proportion, and the artisan as yet can save no more than he is able to do in England. This is the best work on South Africa that has appeared in some years.

Reise auf S. M. S. Möwe. Streifzüge in Südseekolonien und Ostasien. Von Johannes Wilda. 19 page pictures and a sketch map of the route. Second edition. 301 pp. Allgemeiner Verein für deutsche Litteratur. Berlin, 1903.

Sketches of travel written with vivacity and presenting many different phases of life and scene from the savagery of the Solomon Islands to the modern development of Hong Kong and Manila.

Guide Through Netherlands India. Translated from the Dutch by B. J. Berrington. 201 pp. Thomas Cook & Son, London, 1903. (Price, 1 sh.)

The Royal Packet Company of the Netherlands had this volume compiled for the convenience of visitors to the Dutch East Indies. As the vessels of the company visit all the important islands of the Colonies, the water routes are extensive, the inland routes for tourists being chiefly confined to Java and some coastal districts in other islands. The book describes the numerous points of interest, sketches the various peoples and their ways of living, quotes passage rates, etc. Besides many half-tone pictures there are coloured maps of Java, Dutch Borneo, and the Dutch East Indies, with large-scale plans of Batavia and other leading towns.

The Island of Formosa, Past and Present. By James W. Davidson, Consul of the United States for Formosa, pp. 646, besides Appendix and Index. Macmillan & Co., London and New York, 1903.

Mr. Davidson's book has occupied much of his time for eight years, during which he received a large amount of material from Japanese officials, surveyors, and other sources, besides engaging himself in extended studies in the island.